

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(C)(1)

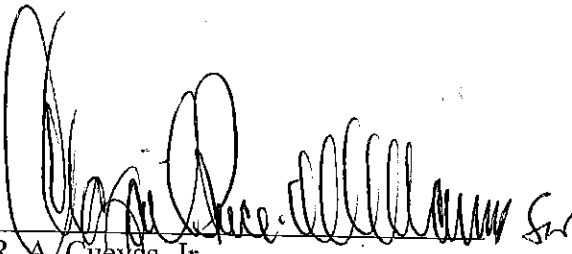
TO: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: July 14, 2015

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Report regarding the Lincoln
Memorial Park Cemetery

The accompanying report was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson.


R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

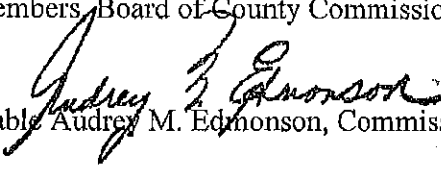
RAC/cp

Memorandum



Date: April 29, 2015

To: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members Board of County Commissioners

From:  Honorable Audrey M. Edmonson, Commissioner District 3

Subject: Report Regarding the Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery

This report concerns the historic Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery (the "Cemetery"), which is located in District 3, and details my efforts to have an overabundance of debris and overgrowth removed from the site and the landscaping properly maintained. Attached to this report is a resolution approved by the County's Historic Preservation Board on March 18, 2015, requesting that necessary resources be allocated for the restoration and maintenance of the Cemetery.

By way of background, the Cemetery is a privately-owned property located at 3001 NW 46th Street, Miami, Florida and was established in 1924. It was designated as a historic site in 1991. The cemetery is historically significant as one of the oldest African American cemeteries in Miami-Dade County, and is also noteworthy because many African American pioneers, community activists, and leaders are buried there. Some of these significant individuals include Kelsey Leroy Pharr, Dr. William Sawyer, Arthur and Polly Mays, Elliot Pieze, Henry E. S. Reeves, Samuel Sampson, Dana Dorsey, and Reverend John Culmer.

Unfortunately, the property has not been properly maintained in recent years, and the Cemetery has become significantly overgrown with brush and littered with debris. It has also become a target for illegal dumping. Among other issues, many of the above-ground crypts and nameplates are in disrepair, to the point where valuable information, including names of those buried there, is at risk of being forever lost.

In order to address the situation and ensure that the Cemetery is brought into compliance with the County code, I have been working closely with the Mayor's office and several County departments, including Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM), Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER), and the Corrections and Rehabilitation Department. With the support of the property owner and the community, the Corrections and Rehabilitation Department will utilize inmates to do a comprehensive one-time clean-up of the site. PWWM will assist by providing trash containers and hauling away the debris. The initial clearing of the site will make the waiver or reduction of certain outstanding liens with RER possible. Long term sustainability of the Cemetery will largely be dependent on the dedicated efforts of community activists and organizations who have already volunteered to maintain the property.

The County's Historic Preservation Board's resolution is attached for the Board's consideration.



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD**
STEPHEN P. CLARK CENTER
111 N. W. FIRST STREET
MAILBOX 114, (12TH FLOOR)
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128
305-375-4958

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD**

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-05

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROVIDE
RESOURCES, FINANCIAL AND OTHERWISE,
TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN
LINCOLN MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY**

WHEREAS, Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery is a privately-owned property located at 3001 NW 46th Street, Miami, Florida and was originally platted by W. L. Brown in 1916; and

WHEREAS, the cemetery is historically significant as one of the oldest African American cemeteries in Miami-Dade County, and is also significant because many of the African American pioneers, community activists, and leaders are buried there; and

WHEREAS, some of these significant individuals include Kelsey Leroy Pharr, Dr. William Sawyer, Arthur and Polly Mays, Elliot Pieze, Henry E. S. Reeves, Samuel Sampson, Dana Dorsey, and Reverend John Culmer; and

WHEREAS, the property has become significantly overgrown and many of the above-ground crypts and nameplates are in disrepair, to the point where valuable information, including names of those buried, are being lost;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Historic Preservation Board, on March 18, 2015, has requested that the Board of County Commissioners provide the necessary resources including financial and otherwise to restore and maintain Lincoln Memorial Cemetery to its rightful place in the hearts and pages of our diverse and inclusive history.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD
STEPHEN P. CLARK CENTER
111 N. W. FIRST STREET
MAILBOX 114, (12TH FLOOR)
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128
305-375-4958

Resolution #2015-05

Page 2

Prepared by:

Kathleen Kauffman

Kathleen Kauffman, Historic Preservation Chief
Office of Historic Preservation

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Gary Appel	YES
Ruth Campbell	YES
Adriana Cantillo	YES
Rick Cohen	YES
Dr. Paul George	ABSENT
Robert McKinney	ABSENT
Mitch S. Novick, Chair	YES
JoEllen Phillips	YES
Enid C. Pinkney	YES
Ronda Vangates	YES